GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3668
ANSWERED ON:16.08.2000
ISI ACTIVITIES IN NEPAL
PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any prior information was received by Indian Embassy at Kathmandu or other agencies pertaining to the ISI activities in Nepal before the hijacking of IC 814;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps which the Government of India had taken to deal with the situation?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA)

(a) & (b) The Government of India has been aware and concerned about ISI misusing the Nepalese territory and the open India-Nepal border for activities inimical to India`s interest. Reports received by the Government indicated evidence of ISI, with the help of Indian extremist elements from Punjab and Kashmir, using Nepal as a staging post for terrorist activities directed against India. However, no prior information was available specifically with regard to the hijacking incident.

(c) Measures have been taken to enhance cooperation with Nepal, particularly with regard to implementing effective border management. The concerned agencies of the two Governments remain in regular touch to coordinate efforts to tackle this problem. There are also bilateral institutional mechanisms, such as the Joint Working Group on Border Management and Home Secretary level talks, which have been evolved to specifically develop cooperation on security matters and to address these concerns. In pursuance of the decisions taken in these meetings, both sides have agreed to jointly coordinate measures to counter ISI activities directed against India. On their part, the Government of Nepal have assured that their territory would not be used for activities inimical to India`s interest and have been extending their cooperation to the Government of India in this regard.